

From: Budget Committee <[budgetcom@atkinson-nh.gov](mailto:budgetcom@atkinson-nh.gov)>

Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 4:26 PM

To: PUC: <[PUC@puc.nh.gov](mailto:PUC@puc.nh.gov)>

Cc: PUC: Executive.Director <[Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov](mailto:Executive.Director@puc.nh.gov)>; Selectmen <[Selectmen@atkinson-nh.gov](mailto:Selectmen@atkinson-nh.gov)>; Budget Committee <[budgetcom@atkinson-nh.gov](mailto:budgetcom@atkinson-nh.gov)>

Subject: Comment from Atkinson Budget Committee, on Case DW 20-117 Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. Request for Change in Rates

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Dear NH Public Utility Commissioners,

Concerning Case DW 20-117 Hampstead Area Water Company, Inc. Request for Change in Rates:

On behalf of the Atkinson Town Budget Committee, we ask the Commission to please consider the following:

- Due to Covid causing some Town residents to lose jobs and businesses, we are trying to keep the Town Budget as close to level-funded this year as possible; the last thing these people need at this time is a property tax increase.
- The proposed increase in the per-hydrant, yearly Fire Protection rate, from \$200 to \$1,419 (609%), is massive.
- To implement it in a single-year step function would, all by itself, cause a 1.7% increase in our Town budget.
- Even if justified long-term by costs, we ask that it be phased in gradually, over a period of years.

Sincerely,

Bill Smith  
Chairman, Atkinson Budget committee

Wendy Barker  
Vice-Chair, Atkinson Budget committee

Ray Fournier  
Member, Atkinson Budget committee

Bob Malo  
Member, Atkinson Budget committee

Mark Sakakeeny  
Member, Atkinson Budget committee

Peter Torosian  
Member, Atkinson Budget committee